

**CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION THAT WORKS  
WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS  
DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPERS TEAM**

**PENNY BUSINGA**

Penny Businga is currently Director of Staff Development for Educational Service Unit # 13 in the panhandle of Nebraska. She is committed to increasing the number of teachers who can better serve English language learners. She teaches ESL courses for Wayne State College, coordinates the ESL consortium for the region, and focuses on strong vocabulary instruction at all levels. Penny has a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and additional endorsements in assessment, English as a Second Language, and High Ability Learners.

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**ROSEMARY CERVANTES**

Rosemary is the ESL/Multicultural Coordinator at ESU 10 in Kearney. She works with school staff, students, and parents in about thirty districts in central Nebraska with Title III funding for English language learners and immigrant students. Prior to working at ESU 10 she taught for over 25 years in the United States and Mexico. She is bilingual and bicultural having lived in Mexico as an adult for sixteen years.

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**KRISTIE DUGAN**

Mrs. Kristie Dugan is currently a Literacy Coordinator in Lexington Middle School in Lexington, Nebraska, and has spent a great deal of time working with the district's ELL instructors to develop and align curriculum, materials and assessments. Throughout her 15 years of teaching she has taught multiple grade levels in several different districts. As well as in her role as a Literacy Coordinator, Kristie has had the opportunity to share her passion for education in a variety of classroom settings, including country schools, grade level classes, and as a reading specialist. Mrs. Dugan's education includes a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State College.

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**PAM ERIXON**

Pam Erixon is an ELL teacher at Holling Heights Elementary in the Millard Public Schools. She is also the HAL facilitator at her school and works with gifted students, some of which are also ELL students! She has conducted staff development sessions in best practices for ELL students both in her building and at the district level. She has taught for 14 years, and has worked specifically with ELL families the last four years.

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**DAVE GIBBONS**

Dave is currently the Curriculum, Assessment, School Improvement Coordinator, and Professional Development Coordinator at Schuyler Community Schools. He taught Spanish and English as a Second Language at Schuyler Central High School for twelve years before stepping into his current role. He is currently a doctoral student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

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**HEIDI HODGINS**

Heidi is the Kindergarten through sixth grade Literacy Teacher Leader in South Sioux City, Nebraska. She has 10 years of experience instructing English language learners and has taught both second and fourth grades. Heidi received her undergraduate degree from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa and her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.

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**JEWEL HOXWORTH**

Jewel Hoxworth has been an ELL instructor at Bridgeport Public Schools for eleven years. She holds a bachelor's degree from Kearney State College and an ESL endorsement from Wayne State College. In addition to working with students K-12, she teaches adult ESL classes.

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### **MARY LAMKEN**

Mary Lamken is currently the ELL Department Chair for Hastings Public Schools. She is an elementary ELL teacher for Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. Mary graduated from University of Nebraska with a B.S. In Education. Her primary endorsement is elementary education with an additional endorsement from University of Nebraska at Kearney in ELL.

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### **KARI MACKIEWICZ**

Kari Mackiewicz is a Secondary Teacher Trainer in the English as a Second Language Department of the Omaha Public School District. She received her master's degree in Language Teaching and her undergraduate teaching degree from UNO. She is currently working on her master's in Educational Administration. She has worked with ELLs for almost eleven years, and she has a special place in her heart for newcomers since most of her experience has been with them. She enjoys working with ESL teachers, but she also enjoys supporting content area teachers as she often provides professional development on differentiating instruction to meet the needs of ELLs. She is a certified SIOP (sheltered instruction) trainer, and in her spare time she teaches some of the graduate courses for the ESL endorsement program through Concordia University.

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### **WENDY MCCARTY, Ed.D.**

Wendy teaches in the Teacher Education Department at the University of Nebraska at Kearney in the Alternative Teacher Certification Program. Her previous experience includes working as a classroom teacher, substance abuse prevention coordinator, college faculty, grant director for first-generation minority students, and as a workshop facilitator.

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### **MANDI MORGAN**

Mandi is the K-5 ESL teacher for Wood River Rural Schools. She has been the ESL teacher for the past four years and has nine years of classroom experience with ELLs. She is currently working toward her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on English as a Second Language from Wayne State College.

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### **JULIE MYERS**

Julie Myers currently works for Lexington Public Schools as an Elementary Literacy Coordinator. For the past 15 years, Julie has worked with Lexington's language learners as a classroom teacher, Dual Language Coordinator as well as English Language Learner Coordinator. Mrs. Myers has been fortunate to take part in state wide training for ELL students through the Nebraska Department of Education's ELL Leadership Team. Mrs. Myers received a B.A. in Elementary and Special Education from Wayne State College. Julie holds a Master's Degree in Special Education from Wayne State College as well as endorsements for English Language Learners and K-6 Administration from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

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### **CYNDI REED**

Cyndi Reed has been the District ELL Coordinator for Westside Community Schools in Omaha, Nebraska since 1991. In addition to program coordination, she teaches ELL students at the elementary and high school levels. She has earned her Bachelor's and Master's of Science Degrees in Speech Pathology at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Omaha; her ELL endorsement from Concordia University of Nebraska; and is currently completing her Master's of Education in Educational Administration. Cyndi has 25 years of experience teaching students with Speech-Language Disorders and students whose first language is other than English. She has provided district, metro-area, and statewide trainings addressing issues in Speech Pathology and English Language Learning.

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### **NANCY SIVILS**

Nancy Sivils is a 1996 graduate of Northwest Missouri State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Education. She earned her ESL endorsement at Concordia University Nebraska. Nancy is currently the K-12 ELL Coordinator and a secondary ELL teacher working with seventh through twelfth grade students in the Bellevue Public Schools.

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### **DEBRA SKOKAN**

Debra Skokan is the K-5 ELL teacher at Washington Elementary in Fremont, NE. She also works with Midland Lutheran College to coordinate evening adult English classes at Washington Elementary. Debra earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Midland Lutheran College and a Masters of Science in Education with a concentration in ESL from Wayne State College.

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### **CHERYL SPARKS**

Cheryl is the Elementary ESL teacher trainer for the Omaha Public Schools. She provides ESL training for new teachers, conducts district trainings, teaches a graduate course for the ESL endorsement program and works with a team of 65 ESL teachers. She has worked with students in grades K-6 in both an inclusion setting and as an ESL resource teacher in a pullout program.

Cheryl received her B.S. at Iowa State University, a Masters Degree in Urban Education and ESL Endorsement at Kansas State University.

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### **JANE UZZELL**

Jane Uzzell, ELL teacher for Grades K – 6 in Norfolk, Nebraska, is available for summer, evenings, or weekend staff development. Jane has her Bachelor of Fine Arts and Educational Specialist degrees from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and her Masters in Elementary Education from Wayne State College. Jane has 12 years experience teaching ELL students, as well as 14 years in the classroom, music, physical education, and Title I reading. She has done training within the Norfolk Public School district in the various computer Renaissance Learning products (Accelerated Reading, Math and Reading Star Testing). She has also trained teachers and helped implement various summer school Title I/Migrant/ELL curriculums (Summer Counts, S.M.A.R.T. from Texas, Reading Mastery, and StepUp to Writing.)

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### **WENDY WENDT**

Wendy Wendt works for the Elkhorn Public School District as the District ELL Coordinator. She also serves as a K-12 ELL teacher, working collaboratively with classroom teachers. Wendy has over 12 years of teaching experience and has provided services to school districts in both Kansas and Nebraska. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a minor in Spanish. Wendy continued her education by earning a Master's of Science in Elementary Education with an endorsement in ESL from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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### **CINDY WEST**

As the Secondary ELL Coordinator for Lincoln Public Schools, Cindy provides leadership in the design development, and implementation of the ELL Curriculum. She coordinates and provides in-service at the building, district, and state levels specifically for staff working with ELLs, and has also presented at national conferences. Cindy's first experience with refugee populations was teaching English in a Vietnamese refugee camp in Thailand in 1981. She has over twenty years of combined ESL/ELL teaching experience at elementary, middle, and high school. She participated in the NE ELL Leadership Institute (ELLI) as well as serving as a member of the ELLI Design Team for NDE. Cindy authored an article for *The School Administrator*.

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### **JENNIFER WICKARD**

Jennifer Wickard is currently an ELL teacher and program leader for ELL at Crete High School in Crete, Nebraska. She has worked for Crete for 3 years in ELL and for an additional 4 years in tutoring ELL students in Lincoln. In 2007, Jennifer received her Bachelor's Degree in Middle Level Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. In May of 2010, she received her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College.

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### **KRISTA KJELDGAARD**

Krista is currently employed with the Nebraska Department of Education as an Education Specialist (Poverty and LEP Plans). She has 14 years of teaching experience including elementary, secondary ELL, and postsecondary. She is a certified trainer of Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) and Six Traits writing. She earned a bachelor's in elementary education and an ESL Endorsement from UNO and a master's degree at Doane College.

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### **NANCY ROWCH**

Nancy is the Director of the Title III (English Language Acquisition) Office at the Nebraska Department of Education. Nancy has provided training across the state on topics related to the education of English Language Learners. In addition, she has taught ESL Methods, Second Language Acquisition, and ESL Assessment classes at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln and Kearney campuses). She was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade bilingual teacher in San Antonio. Nancy holds her B.S. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Spanish education and an M.A. from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Bilingual Teacher Education.

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### **TERRI SCHUSTER**

Terri has been employed with the Nebraska Department of Education in ELL Assessment for two years. Her previous teaching experience includes elementary education and/or ELL in Hawaii, Beatrice and Lincoln for 17 years. She received her BS in Elementary Education at Chaminade University of Honolulu and her Master of Education, Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UN-L). She is endorsed in Elementary Education and ESL K-12.

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### **JANE HILL**

As a principal consultant for McREL, Jane consults and trains teachers and administrators nationally and internationally. She has worked in the areas of second language acquisition and special education for 30 years. Jane has published articles in Language Magazine, The Journal of Staff Development, The School Administrator, Leadership Information, and Phi Delta Kappan. She co-authored Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners (ASCD, 2006) and Classroom Instruction That Works with English Language Learners Facilitator's Guide and Participant's Workbook (ASCD, 2008). Jane holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts/Speech from Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, and an M.S. in Communication Disorders from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

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